

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman
~~Tomio Muto~~
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KYODAN CONTINUES EFFORTS TO WORK OUT BASIC EVANGELISM POLICY

As one of the main meetings which the Preparation Committee is calling to prepare for the Second Fundamental Policy Research Conference on Evangelism to be held this autumn, the General Evangelism Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCC) met from June 20 to 22 with ninety delegates in attendance, including leaders of the Kyodan, chairmen of each District (Kyoku) evangelism committee and specialists in all other areas of Evangelism carried on by the UCC. The points discussed at this conference, which reveal an attempt to work out a new direction in UCC evangelism, will receive further deliberation by the evangelism Committee, then be presented at the Second Fundamental Policy Research Conference on Evangelism for discussion and development into concrete policy, and then be put into practice after passing approval at the General Assembly.

A summary of the findings is as follows:

A. Pertaining to reformation of the posture of the church--with Dr. H. Kraemer's report on "Today's Church" as the central source.

(1) Churches which make their witness to the world rather than self-centered, independent churches must be formed. (2) The daily life of the layman is an important area for evangelism, therefore, training of the layman in methods of evangelism and a

greater fellowship in the church are necessary. (3) Actual penetration of the masses by the gospel is necessary, and to accomplish this it is necessary to know the needs of the masses. There are too few Christians among the laborers. (4) The witness of the church is confirmed by true unity, therefore, as a "merger church" the Kyodan must further strengthen its unity and solidarity and be assiduous in its task of evangelism. (5) The reformation of the posture of the Church must begin with repentance before Christ and by living a life in accordance with Christ's teachings.

B. Pertaining to the plan to set up evangelism districts (denominations). (1) Chiefly in the area of rural evangelism, there is a need for the use by the evangelists of a language understood by the common man rather than a "church language". (2) The relation of the proposed evangelism districts to the already established 4 Districts (Kyoku) needs defining. (3) The temporary policy of setting up new churches here and there must be replaced by a program which is based on long-term (10 years) planning. (4) The responsibility to local level evangelism and the form of the total evangelism strategy must be established.

C. Other points -

There is a need for more surveys and studies to aid in evangelism planning. There is a need for promotion of the total evangelism policy but the autonomy of the Kyoku must be respected. Along with the aiding of weak and small churches the living standard of the pastors must be improved. There must be a careful rethinking of the matter of independence while using the cooperative aid from abroad effectively.

NEW DANCE-DRAMA "ST. PAUL OF DAMASCUS" PRESENTED

On June 28, the Kirisuto Bunkakai (Christian Culture Society) held a "Christian Culture and Japanese Classic Arts Festival" at the Sankei Hall in Tokyo. The main number on the program was the recently completed "St. Paul of Damascus", a dance-drama adapted to the classical Noh style and accompanied by Nagauta(classical samisen music). The unique drama, which took two years to complete, is an accomplishment of Mr. Kyukei Shiroto, who was aided by Mr. Rokuzaemon Kineya and Rev. H. Heuvers a Jesuit Father. Mr. Shiroto, a member of the Reinanzaka Church in Tokyo (UCC), is the Director of the Kirisuto Bunkakai and is well known as a maker of Noh masks. Mr. Kineya a Nagauta expert, composed the music for the new drama. The choreographer was Jusuke Hanayagi, head of the noted Hanayagi classic dance school.

In an effort to preserve the traditional Japanese classical forms and to have the audience "feel" Paul of Damascus, all "obvious religious covering" was avoided. The costumes were all of the classic Noh style and no cross or other Christian symbols were used.

The Noh play "St. Paul", which was presented at an earlier date was based on the 8th and 9th chapters of Acts, but "Paul of Damascus" opens with the blinded Saul visiting the house of Judas

where he meets Ananias. The confrontation by the resurrected Christ is then presented in the form of a flashback wherein Paul recalls the blessings of Christ.

Jusuke Hanayagi, played the part of Paul, his daughter Wakaba Hanayagi was the wife of Judas and Kinnosuke Hanayagi was Ananias.

The Kiristuo Bunkakai was organized in 1949 to further international exchange of fine arts and friendship and includes both Protestants and Roman Catholics as its members. The first chairman was Toyohiko Kagawa. The Noh drama "The resurrected Christ" and the Kyogen (a comedietta) "The Sea of Galilee have been presented previously by the Society.

DR. NOBUSHIGE UKAI ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF ICU

Dr. Nobushige Ukai has been elected to succeed Dr. Hachiro Yusasa as president of International Christian University. Dr. Ukai will take office in September when Dr. Yuasa, who has been in the top post since the inception of the university ten years ago, will retire to take up residence in Kyoto, where he formerly served as president of Doshisha University.

Dr. Ukai, 55, is an internationally recognized expert in constitutional and administrative law and is director of the Tokyo University Social Science Institute. He carried out the first pre- and post-election surveys held in Japan. Since 1953, Ukai has been teaching courses in political science at ICU and has been director of the school's Social Science Research Institute which is the nucleus of a planned graduate school in public administration.

A prominent lecturer, he recently lectured on invitation at Southern Illinois University, at Columbia University's East Asian Institute, and at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He is also well known in Japan as a political commentator and analyst of political events over National Broadcasting facilities.

Dr. Ukai received the degree of LL. B. in Public Law from Tokyo University in 1930 and did graduate work at Carleton College, Harvard University, and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1955 at Tokyo University.

While a student at Aoyama Gakuin Middle School and Tokyo University, Ukai was a member of the track team. He still is an active skier. Dr. Ukai says that the book that impressed him most was "A Study of the Old Testament" by Zenta Watanabe.

His grandmother, Mrs. Kajiko Yajima, was a leader of the early Christian movement in Japan. His father, Rev. Takeshi Ukai, served for many years as pastor of the Ginza church, where Dr. Ukai's younger brother, Rev. Isamu Ukai, is now pastor. Dr. Ukai is an elder in the church.

DR. CLARENCE S. GILLETT DIES

Dr. C. S. Gillett, emeritus superintendent of the Matsuyama Shionome Gakuen (a Christian school), died suddenly on June 17, of a stroke. Funeral services were held at the school on the 20th and the body was interred in the Kyoto Yakuoji cemetery where his adopted son is also buried.

Dr. Gillett, a missionary of the American Board (Congregational Christian), was 67 at the time of his death. He had retired only this spring and was planning to return to America this summer.

At the time of the great earthquake and fire of 1923 in Japan, Dr. Gillett was one of those most active in giving aid to the victims, and through this witness a great number of decisions were made for Christ.

Contributing 40 years of service in the field of education in Japan, he was awarded a commendation by the Japanese government at the time of the celebrations commemorating 100 years of Japanese-American amity.

MIDNIGHT MISSION TO ESTABLISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

For the past five years, every Thursday and Friday night, beginning at 8:30, two German missionaries Miss Dora Mundinger and Miss Reiswitz have been going to the Shinjuku, Shibuya and other areas in Tokyo to search out prostitutes, and distribute pamphlets among them, in an attempt to persuade them to stop their activities. They have also been going out to cities just outside Tokyo once or twice a month.

At present, this Midnight Mission has three young women under its care, three of whom have found legitimate work.

To aid in its rehabilitation program, the mission will soon establish a women's institute in Chiba prefecture. Construction costs for the proposed 500-square-meter building will come to ¥ 4.5 million. Actual building commenced in May and completion is scheduled for mid-August.

